



The International Fancy Guppy Association



Dedicated to Promoting The Fancy Guppy Hobby

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HOME	MEMBERSHIP	SHOWS	OFFICERS	CLUBS	INFORMATION	BREEDERS	CONTACT	MEMBERS SECTION
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Variegated Snakes

By Frank Orteca

Snakeskins, as most of you know, are my favorite strains. Up to this point, all my articles have been on solid snakes. This article is to tell you about the unlimited crossing potential of variegated snakes.

When most guppy breeders think of variegated snakes, they picture a cream to yellow finnage with black dots variegating the caudal and dorsal. Some strains produce a broad pattern while others produce a fine lace pattern. The lace variegated snakes seem to be smaller in body size and tend to throw all veils. Both the broad pattern and lace patterns make excellent fish to cross into.

In the past, I have crossed these fish into Mormino's Multis, HB AOCs, my Red bis, just to name a few of the crosses I have made. The most interesting thing I have found when crossing into my variegated snakes, is the ability of the snake female to throw snake males in the F1 generation. I first noticed this years ago when Frank Mormino and I were crossing Frank's multi males into my variegated snake females. In the F1 generation, we found 25% males with the snakeskin pattern. They were large multi colored snakes. The other 75% came out very good multis. Since then I have used crosses into variegated snake females to produce prize winning red bi colors. Red bi colors from this cross won the Class Championship in 1991.

Crossing Wasylink's purple males into my variegated females, then taking the males from the F1 cross and back crossing them to variegated females produce excellent fish. These were very bright, wide tailed variegated snakes that won their Class Championship in 1991.

For the most part, crosses using variegated snakes produced quality fish in the first generation. If you should cross these fish and find you are not happy with the F1's, breed them brother to sister. The F2's will produce very good variegated snakes, multis or bi colors.

If you are thinking about keeping just one or two lines of fish, I would always recommend one line being variegated snakes. The fish are beautiful and have unlimited crossing potential.

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Filtration

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